

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) A diagnostic cap comprising a substantially cup-shaped body, an absorbent plug located within the body, and at least one diagnostic test reagent located in or around the absorbent plug.
2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to claim 1, wherein the cap has a length of from about 1cm to about 4cm.
3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 1, wherein the cap has one or more engagement elements on an inside surface of a side wall of the cap for securing the cap onto a shaft.
4. (Original) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to claim 3, wherein said engagement elements are selected from the group consisting of: a tapered region for forming an interference fit with a complementary tapered region on the shaft, a snap-fitting projection for forming a snap-fit with one or more complementary projections on the shaft, and a threaded projection for forming a screw fit with one or more complementary threads on the shaft.
5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein a venting aperture is provided in a lower region of the cap.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 5, wherein the cap is at least partially transparent.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 3, wherein the at least one diagnostic test reagent is provided in or on an annular diagnostic strip extending radially around the inside of the cap.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 3, wherein at least one diagnostic test reagent is provided in or on a diagnostic sheet extending transversely across the inside of the cap.
9. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the absorbent plug has an uncompressed volume of from about 10 to about 1000mm³, preferably from about 50 to about 300 mm³.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the cap bears radially and/or axially spaced indicia corresponding to different regions or layers of diagnostic material inside the cap.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 8, wherein the cap is provided with a filter for separating solid debris from an analyte solution to be passed to the diagnostic test reagent.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 11, wherein the cap is provided with a fill indicator to indicate when the diagnostic test reagent has been wetted by an analyte solution.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 12, wherein the diagnostic test reagent comprises a solid support material having a substrate moiety covalently linked thereto that is cleavable by an analyte enzyme.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 12, wherein the diagnostic test reagent comprises a solid support material having an immunological binding partner for an analyte moiety covalently linked thereto.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The diagnostic cap according to ~~any preceding~~ claim 12, wherein the cap contains a plurality of diagnostic test reagents for detecting a plurality of different analytes.